
		<h2 style="text-align: center;">MISSIONARIES OF ST FRANCIS DE SALES</h2> <p style="text-align: center;">Fransalians - Province of East Africa Provincial House P. O. Box 12 Morogoro Tanzania Tel: +255 689 882 711; +255 624 027 880 www.msfs-eastafrica.com e-mail: provincialeastafricansfs@gmail.com</p>	
Provincial Circular EAP – MT.45		July 12, 2023	

My dear confreres and friends,

Fraternal greetings and love to you!



"I thank you with all my heart, Lord my God, I will glorify your name for ever, for your faithful love for me is so great" (Ps. 86:12). With these words of the Psalmist, I thank God for the innumerable blessings and graces that I have experienced in animating our beloved Province for the past six years as the Provincial Superior of East Africa. As I complete my term as Provincial of East Africa, I thank God for His precious love and protection which I experienced during my tenure as Provincial. God has been very gracious to all of us in our missionary endeavours and apostolates in East Africa. We have experienced his providential care in our missions and ministry in East Africa. May His name be glorified always!

I am very grateful to our beloved Superior General Very Rev. Fr. Abraham Vettuvilil and the entire General Curia for placing their trust and confidence in me to animate our Province for the last six years. I sincerely thank them for their constant support, availability and guidance in animating the province. I wish to express my gratitude to all the provincials of the different provinces, past and present, for their collaboration and support. I thank the MSAF (Mission Superiors Africa Forum) for their collaboration in making the Fransalian presence vibrant in Africa. I thank all the MSFS confreres all over the world for their constant love and support for the province of East Africa.

I express my deep gratitude and appreciation to all our Archbishops and Bishops under whose jurisdiction we are ministering to the people of God. I have experienced their support, guidance and encouragements in all our missions. I am very grateful to each of them for helping us to bloom wherever our confreres are engaged in pastoral ministry, especially in East Africa.

I sincerely thank all the civil officers and leaders at various levels for their constant support and collaboration in our various apostolates. We experience true religious freedom and harmony among various religions and peoples in East Africa. It is due to the civic sense and leadership in all the three countries that we enjoy freedom of religion. I also thank them for their tireless efforts to promote peace, harmony and security in our countries.

I am deeply indebted to all our benefactors, well-wishers and various organizations for their invaluable support and collaboration in our missions in East Africa. We would not have been able to achieve what we have accomplished today without their unwavering and generous support. We acknowledge with gratitude their selfless sacrifices and commitment for the cause of evangelization and their determination to make positive changes in the lives of our people through the ministry of our confreres and that of our Congregation.

I am indeed grateful to all the Religious Congregations (brothers and sisters) who are supporting us in our parishes and schools. We thank them for their collaboration and commitment in our missions. I also thank all the volunteers and the employees of our missions and institutions for their constant support and for sharing a common vision for the people whom we serve.

I express my sincere appreciation and gratitude to all the confreres of East Africa Province for their invaluable trust, love and constant support which helped to animate our province. I thank their commitment, dedication and resilience in implementing our common vision and mission as Fransalians in East Africa. It is by the grace of God and the generosity and sacrifices of all of you my beloved confreres in East Africa that we were able to establish several new missions and institutions during these past six years. I thank you wholeheartedly for the same. You were always ready to take up challenging and difficult missions for the greater glory of God. In all our missions, we lack sufficient personnel, but you are always ready to make sacrifices for the mission entrusted to your care. Thank you for your love and commitment for the mission of Christ. I sincerely thank the Provincial Curia of both terms whose unwavering support, guidance and team work helped me to animate the province. I have always experienced their generosity and love in animating the province. I sincerely thank Fr. Clement Sudhakar and Fr. Martin Pendanath for managing the social media of the Province. May God bless every confrere of our Province!

I sincerely thank each of you for praying for me constantly. I seek your pardon and forgiveness, if I have hurt anyone through my words or deeds. I humbly request you to continue praying for me.

Now we have a new shepherd in the person of Rev. Fr. James Panthalanickel MSFS. On behalf of all our confreres and on my own behalf, I wish him God's abundant blessings and assure my prayerful support as he assumes the office of the Provincial of East Africa on July 15, 2023. May God guide and bless him and our province abundantly!

NEW PROVINCIALS

Fr. Johnson Gonsalves is appointed as the new Provincial of Pune Province.

Fr. Manoj Tirkey is appointed as the new Provincial of Nagpur Province.

We wish them God's abundant blessings and prayerful support in their ministry of leadership.

GENERAL CHAPTER 2025

As our beloved Superior General has notified through his circular on June 29, 2023, the election of delegates for the 21st General Chapter will take place from July 15 to 20 (first round) and from July 25 to 30 (second round). We will have eVoting for the election of delegates to the General Chapter. You will receive an email explaining the modalities of eVoting.

INITIATION TO THE NOVITIATE



On 9th July, 15 Pre-Novices were initiated to their canonical year of Novitiate at Kibaha by Fr. Mathew Thazhathukunnel, the Provincial of East Africa. Of these, five novices are for Tchad-Cameroon

Delegation, and 10 novices for East Africa Province. We wish them God's blessing as they begin to discern their vocation as Fransalians and experience the basics of religious life in the Novitiate.

FIRST PROFESSION

July 10th was a joyous day for the Fransalians in Africa as 14 Novices made their First Commitment to the Lord (Mozambique Delegation: 1; Tchad-Cameroon Delegation: 4; and East Africa Province: 9). Fr. Mathew Thazhathukunnel, the Provincial of East Africa province presided over the



Eucharistic celebration and received the vows. Hearty congratulations to all our newly professed confreres as we welcome them to the Fransalian Family. I sincerely thank Fr. Stephen Ubadesi, the Director of Novices and Fr. Rakesh Ekka, who accompanied the novices during their canonical year of novitiate and assisted them to discern and grow in their vocation to religious life in the Fransalian Family.

GRATITUDE

Rev. Fr. Agnelo Fernandes who was serving LCI since 2019 has gone back to his mother Province (Nagpur) on June 30, 2023. We thank and appreciate Fr. Agnelo for his dedicated services at LCI as a professor and spiritual director. His fatherly presence was an inspiration for all.

Rev. Fr. Jijo John who was serving LCI since 2021 has returned to his mother Province (Pune) on May 25, 2023. We thank him and appreciate his dedicated services as a professor and guide to many inmates of the Institute.

As we thank their selfless services to the LCI community and institute, we accompany them with our prayers and wish them all the best in their future ministry.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Fr. Jose Eriyanickal MSFS

Holy Maternity of Mary Parish
210 N.Front Street, Dowagiac,
MI 49047

Fr. C. Arockiasamy MSFS

St. Anthony Mary Claret Catholic Church
6150Roft Road,
San Antonio, Texas.

PROMOTION TO PERPETUAL PROFESSION AND DIACONATE

Bro. Godwin Nanalo and **Bro. Joseph Mwasa** are promoted to make their perpetual profession and to receive the Ordination of Diaconate.

HOLIDAYS

Fr. Stephen Gerald	June 30 – July 27
Fr. Santhosh Paul	July 06 – July 20 (to visit his ailing father)

OBITUARY

Mr. Onsemus Bagheni (97), the grandfather of Bro. Richard Masereka (Kola), passed away on 22.06.2023.

Mr. Santhosh Panthalanickel (52), first cousin of Fr. James Panthalanickel, passed away on 27.06.2023.

Mr. John Joseph (73), brother of Fr. Devasia Manalel, passed away on 09.07.2023.

May God grant them eternal life!



Once again, thanking you all for your love, support and prayers during my tenure as provincial of East Africa Province, I remain.

Yours devotedly in Christ Jesus,

Father Mathew Thazhathukunnel MSFS



The Prayer of St. Francis de Sales

Lord, I am Yours,
and I must belong to no one but You.

My soul is Yours,
and must live only by You.

My will is Yours,
and must love only You.

I must love You as my first cause,
since I am from You.

I must love You as my end and rest,
since I am for You.

I must love You more than my own being,
since my being subsists by You.

I must love You more than myself,
since I am all Yours and all in You.

Amen.